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--23. An elevator system, comprising:

a hoistway having a first wall and a plurality of doors along the first wall;

an elevator car located in the hoistway; and

a drive apparatus drivingly coupled to the elevator car, the drive apparatus including a motor and one or more ropes, the motor being located in a fixed position along the first wall and immediately adjacent to one of a top and bottom portion of one of the plurality of hoistway doors, the one or more ropes extending alongside the car and downwardly from the drive apparatus.--

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Rejection mailed July 3, 2000. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 13 and 18 were rejected in the Final Rejection. After amendment, Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10, 13 and 18 remain pending and reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and traversal that follows. Further, Applicants request that, in the event that the rejection of these claims is maintained, Examiner enter the amendments in order to place the claims in better condition for appeal. In addition, new claims 19-23 have been added by this Amendment and consideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Claim 1, as amended, now more clearly claims an elevator system having the drive motor located *immediately* adjacent to one of the top or bottom portion of a hoistway door. Takahashi, on the other hand, discloses a machineroom for the drive motor, with the machineroom located above the ceiling of the hallway in front of the top hoistway door and with the drive motor a significant distance away from the top portion of the hoistway door. While such a location for the drive motor may be interpreted as 'nearby' as alleged in the Final Rejection, such a location is clearly not 'immediately adjacent' to the top or bottom of the door as claimed in Claim 1. Therefore, Takahashi fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention of Claim 1 and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claims 2 and 6 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2 and 6.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the clarifying amendment that the drive motor is immediately adjacent to one of the top or bottom portions of the hoistway door. In addition, the element of having a housing that includes a movable panel that provides access to the drive motor from a position in front of the hoistway door has been added. Takahashi does not disclose a movable panel and does not suggest that such a panel would provide access to the drive motor of Takahashi from a position in front of the hoistway door. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 18.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Sugiyama.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Claim 7 has been amended to more clearly recite that the movable panel provides access to the drive motor from a position in front of the adjacent hoistway door. Takahashi does not disclose a movable panel and does not disclose having the drive motor in a location that is amenable to having access from a position in front of the hoistway door. Sugiyama does appear to disclose an opening for access to a drive motor, however, this opening is into a space above the hallway and does not appear to permit access to the drive motor by a person located in a position in front of the hoistway door. Therefore, the combination of Takahashi and Sugiyama does not result in the claimed invention and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 7 and 8.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Moore. Claim 10 depends from Claims 1 and 6 and therefore is patentable for the same reasons as discussed previously with respect to Claims 1 and 6. In addition, while it may be obvious to place the controller and drive in the large open space disclosed in Takahashi, it is not obvious to place the controller and drive in the small space immediately adjacent to the hoistway door. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 10.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Aulanko et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. First, Claim 13 depends from Claim 1 and is therefore patentable for the same reasons as discussed previously. In addition, Claim 13 is directed to underslung roping, not simply 2:1 or multiple roping. The function of this particular roping is to minimize overhead space above the travel space of the car. There is no indication that minimizing the overhead space is a concern of Takahashi or that there would be any benefit. Takahashi discloses having considerable space above the car travel space, which is inherent in elevator systems having large machinerooms located above the top floor of the building. Therefore, minimizing overhead space by utilizing underslung roping would not benefit the elevator system of Takahashi and there is no motivation to combine this reference with Aulanko et al.

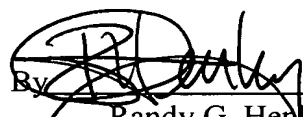
Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 13.

New Claims 19-23 have been added by this Amendment. Claims 19-22 depend from Claim 18 and are directed to roping systems that are particularly advantageous with the invention of Claim 18. Claim 23 is directed to an elevator system having a novel and non-obvious combination of the drive apparatus being located immediately adjacent to one of the top or bottom portions of the door and a particular roping arrangement. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these new claims.

Inasmuch as neither the structure nor function of Applicants' invention has been anticipated or made obvious, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10, 13 and 18, and consideration and allowance of Claims 19-23.

Please charge any deficiency in fees associated with filing this response to our Deposit Account No. 15-0750, Order No. OT-4465.

Respectfully submitted,
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